

Introduced by Senator EscutiaFebruary 21, 2003

An act relating to public social services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1001, as introduced, Escutia. Public assistance: low-income families.

Existing law establishes the Medi-Cal program under which qualified low-income persons are provided health care services. The Medi-Cal program is funded by state and federal funds and administered by the State Department of Health Services. Existing law provides for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program, under which each county provides cash assistance and other benefits to qualified low-income families.

This bill would provide that it is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to improve programs for California's low-income working families that help lift families above the poverty level.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (1) More than one in four children in California (2.46 million)
4 live in families in which at least one parent works at least 50 weeks
5 a year—with 88 percent of those in full-time employment—and
6 that still are struggling with low incomes.



1 (2) Almost one in three children who live in these working
2 families are designated “poor,” or with incomes less than \$15,020
3 for a family of three. As a result, children went hungry in 37,000
4 households during the year 2002.

5 (3) Welfare challenges tend to be more severe in large cities.

6 (4) California needs to develop policies and programs that
7 specifically address the needs of urban welfare recipients and their
8 children, including crime, drugs, violence, substandard school
9 systems, family structures, and lack of health care and child care.

10 (b) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to enact
11 legislation to improve programs for California’s low-income
12 working families that help lift families above poverty level.

